



Representative
Larry Seaquist

26th District

2007 Session in Review



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Dear Neighbors,

We have come to the conclusion of the 2007 legislative session and I would like to thank you for granting me the honor of representing you in Olympia. I'm proud of what my colleagues from the 26th and I were able to accomplish for our community.

As your representative, I pushed for greater accountability with your tax dollars while working for smart cost-saving investments in our education and health-care systems. I even went so far as to support a constitutional rainy-day fund — saving close to \$700 million to meet future needs.

I pushed to strengthen our economy by giving local governments more tools to attract and retain businesses while passing new laws to cut burdensome regulations and save small business start-ups money.

In my 32 years in the Navy, I always tried to represent the uniform with honor and integrity. I carry this same attitude to Olympia and would like to thank you for allowing me to represent you.

Sincerely,

Larry Seaquist
State Representative
26th Legislative District



**A Strong
Economy
for a
Strong
Future**



Creating good sustainable jobs in our region is one of my top priorities in Olympia. We want to make sure we are creating a business environment that creates sustainable jobs that will be in our community for the long-term.

✓ **Local economic development:**

Economic Development Councils (EDC) help retain and attract jobs. We bolstered EDCs and added accountability for new funds to help boost assistance to companies to stay in business, relocate or expand.

✓ **Expanding the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT):**

We helped local governments build water and sewer systems and other infrastructure. LIFT allows communities to use increases in local revenues to help pay for developing and revitalizing areas, a necessity to draw in new jobs.

✓ **Permit planning and regulatory assistance for small business**

Businesses need transparency and predictability around the permitting process to help plan for the future. We directed the Office of Regulatory Assistance to work with local and state governments to improve the permitting process. I also voted to continue programs at the Office of Regulatory Assistance to help answer permitting questions and provide access to information about state regulations.

Transportation

✓ Tacoma Narrows Bridge tolls

We worked to reduce the cost of tolls for the new Narrows Bridge in three ways:

- The first would cut the cost of the new bridge tolls in half for motorists who pay via electronic transponders during the first year of construction by creating a \$5 million reserve account for the bridge.



• The second would apply a portion of the revenue expected from fines paid by those caught illegally using electronic tolling lanes to the Narrows Bridge tolling account, further reducing the cost of tolls. Over time, this measure will generate an additional \$15 to 20 million for the tolling account, lessening the amount of tolls needed.

- The third was a provision included in the Transportation Budget that instructs the Department of Transportation to solicit private donations to try

and mitigate the costs associated with opening day ceremonies.

- ✓ **Freezing Ferry Fares:** Legislation I sponsored will curb growing ferry capital and operating costs and push for greater operational efficiency. The bill freezes fares for two and a half years – a freeze that will save fare payers \$55 million over 16 years.

- ✓ **Maintaining Commitments:** This year's transportation budget carries out the next phase of transportation investments authorized by the Legislature in 2003 and 2005 despite increasing inflation and construction costs. Locally we funded:

- The Burley-Olalla interchange
- SR 16/36th St to Olympic Dr (HOV)
- SR 302/Creviston to Purdy (widen roadway)
- SR 302/Elgin Clifton Road to SR 16 (EIS)
- SR 304 to Ferry terminal (HOV)
- SR 304/Bremerton Transportation Center (access improvements)
- SR 160/SR 16 to Longlake Rd (widen roadway)
- SR 16/Narrows Bridge to SE of Burley (safety cable installation)

Education

✓ Enhancing student learning opportunities and achievement:

Begins to phase in full-day kindergarten in struggling schools, establishes the Washington Learning Center Program which provides grants for high-quality before and after school care, and establishes a grant program for Career Pathways programs in high-demand fields.



✓ Improving mathematics and science education:

Creates a math and science instructional coach program and directs the State Board of Education to recommend revisions to the learning requirements for math and science.

- ✓ **Statewide program for comprehensive dropout prevention:** Grants are provided to assist schools and community organizations providing comprehensive drop-out programs.

26th District Budget Items



✓ Community Building

- Funds for the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Gig Harbor HOPE Center for Youth
- Funding for YMCA of Tacoma-Pierce County, Gig Harbor Family YMCA
- \$5 million for City of Gig Harbor Burnham/Borgen Interchange Improvements
- \$5 million for Bremerton Downtown Economic Revitalization Projects
- Funds for the KCR Bremerton Community Services Center
- Created a new Historic Barn Preservation program (Funds may be allocated to assist with Wilkinson Barn project)

✓ Local Parks

- Evergreen Park Expansion/Shoreline Restoration
- Harbor Family Park Acquisition
- The Westside Neighborhood Park
- The Bremerton Boardwalk Trail

✓ Veterans

- \$4.6 million in funding to upgrade heating systems at Retsil Retired Veterans Home

✓ Colleges & Universities

- \$39.7 million for facility upgrades and maintenance at Olympic College
- \$6.15 million for UW-Tacoma Phase 3 project
- \$2.7 million in funding for Tacoma Community College

✓ Other

- Funds to light the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge
- Kitsap SEED (An alternative energy business park)
- Funding for the Washington Youth Academy in Bremerton

Upholding our Commitments

- ✓ **Constitutional Rainy Day Fund:** This year I supported legislation that would require the state to establish a rainy day fund. This measure which will be before voters this November will help the state be better prepared for emergencies and tight economic times by saving close to \$700 million to meet future needs.

- ✓ **Supporting our Veterans:** As a 32-year veteran of the US Navy, one of my top priorities since winning election is looking for ways the state government can help our soldiers as they return home from war. This year I was able to secure additional funding for the Veterans Innovation Program (VIP). This program is a public/private effort to offer lacking services for Vets in our communities. I have also been working on how we deal with other unforeseen problems such as the traumatic brain injuries that many of our soldiers are returning home with. These injuries may not be immediately recognized and are often a result of roadside bomb or rocket attacks. These injuries often show up later and we need to make sure we have the proper care for these individuals. I am working to find a way that the state can assist the federal government with the care of these individuals.



Health Care

- ✓ **Blue Ribbon Commission:** We won't get a handle on health-care costs until we improve our health-care system as a whole. Legislation passed this year builds prevention into our system so we can prevent chronic, costly illnesses like diabetes and heart disease. It cuts red tape by moving toward electronic medical records and strengthens our public-health system to make sure our food is safe, our water is clean and we can respond to an epidemic.

- ✓ **Health Insurance Partnership:** Legislation builds on a small-employer health-insurance subsidy program passed last year. It's a three-way partnership — employers, employees and the state, that allows employers to decide how much they want to contribute to the cost of their employees' coverage. Employees will be able to use pre-tax dollars to pay their share of the premium, and have a choice in plans.

- ✓ **Children's health:** A healthy child is a child who is ready to learn. During the 2007 session, the Legislature took critical next-steps towards reaching our goal of having every child insured by 2010.



Public Safety

- ✓ **Making sure our children are safe:** We upped supervision standards by the department of corrections to make sure that individuals who have served their time and are being released have the proper supervision and support to make sure they do not re-offend.

- ✓ **Tighten sex-offender laws:** This year the House voted to increase the amount of time the Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board (ISRB) can send violent offenders back to jail from two years to five years.